

## ABSTRACT

An automatic file maintenance system runs as a background thread, as part of the operating system, alleviating a system or network administrator from having to coordinate file maintenance procedures around the computer system's normal activity. The preferred automatic maintenance system continually assembles various statistics regarding the file system and looks for slow or inactive storage device access periods of time during which files or portions of files can be moved. Such file movements are dictated by the file statistics. Moreover, rather than ceasing normal computer system operation to run file maintenance routines, file maintenance is performed in bits and pieces throughout the day during periods of time in which the storage devices are being otherwise being used.